

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

|              |                             |                   |      |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------|
| Appl. No.    | : 09/769,604                | Confirmation No.: | 4397 |
| Applicant    | : Stephen M. Howard, et al. |                   |      |
| Filed        | : January 25, 2001          |                   |      |
| T.C./A.U.    | : 2157                      |                   |      |
| Examiner     | : Ramy M. Osman             |                   |      |
| Docket No.   | : EMC-002PUS                |                   |      |
| Customer No. | : 51576                     |                   |      |

**AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.